(f) if so, the details thereof; and if not, whether Government would consider such steps alongwith the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There is a slight decline in the procurement of rice by the Government Agencies (State Agencies and FCI) for the Central Pool in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 (249.40 lakh tonnes as on 7.8.07 against 269.56 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period in KMS 2005-06). However the procurement of wheat has increased from 92.25 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 to 111.04 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08.

(c) Procurement of rice in KMS 2006-07 has been less than KMS 2005-06 mainly on account of crop diversification and unfavourable weather conditions in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. resulting in less paddy arrivals in mandis.

(d) Data on procurement of wheat and rice by multinational companies is not maintained in this Department.

(e) and (f) No restriction on quantity of procurement by multinational companies has been imposed by the Government of India. However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007" has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 1.3.2007. The order provides that any company or firm or individual who purchases wheat beyond 50,000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.

Procurement by private companies in Punjab

51. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that private companies have purchased wheat in Punjab much above the rate fixed for procurement by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the quantity purchased by them and at what rate; and

(c) how much quantity has been purchased by the State Agencies and at what rate and what was the target fixed by them for the procurement of foodgrains during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) FCI has informed that a quantity of 6.90 lakh MTs of wheat has been purchased by the private companies/traders in Punjab at rates between Rs.850 to Rs. 1050 per quintal.

(c) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open ended, no targets are fixed. However, based

on the estimates given by the State Food Secretaries on 12.2.2007 during the meeting held to review arrangements for procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, the estimate of procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 for Punjab was 75 lakh tonnes. The Government Agencies (State agencies and Food Corporation of India) in Punjab have procured 67.57 lakh MTs of wheat at the rate of 850 per quintal (including a bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal) for Central Pool.

Revival of sick sugar mills

52. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar mills functioning at present in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of sugar mills lying sick during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps for the revival of these sick mills and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement showing State-wise number of sugar mills which worked during the current sugar season 2006-07 is enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Statement showing details of the sugar mills lying sick during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps to reopen/revive the closed sugar mills. The sick sugar mills belonging to private and public sectors are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net-worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines. As regards the cooperative sugar mills, a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) which considers the proposals of the potentially viable sick sugar mills of this sector.

Statement-I

State-wise No. of sugar mills which worked during the current Sugar Season 2006-07 (Provisional)

Sl. No.	State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	16
2.	Haryana	14
3.	Rajasthan	1
4.	Uttaranchal	10